

BRUCELLOSIS

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness characterized by acute or insidious onset of fever, night sweats, fatigue, anorexia, weight loss, headache, and arthralgia. The infection can also cause osteoarticular complications, endocarditis, and orchitis.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis with laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of *Brucella* sp. from a clinical specimen, **OR**
 - Fourfold or greater rise in *Brucella* agglutination titer between acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens obtained ≥ 2 weeks apart and studied at the same laboratory, **OR**
 - Demonstration of *Brucella* sp. in a clinical specimen by immunofluorescence.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Case Report Form - EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Source investigation by LHD. Search for history of exposure to infected animals or animal products (especially unpasteurized milk and cheese) and trace to place of origin. Multiple cases have been traced to clinical laboratory exposures.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH: 502-564-3261.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. BRUCELLOSIS. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 75-78.
2. Pickering LK, ed. Brucellosis. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 192-193.